Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: The thing is if you are going to have a large number of days set apart for the collection of fees it will confuse the machinery which collects fees. That is the only cause.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: കോളേജിൽ ശമ്പളം പിരിക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം എന്താ? അതായതു്, അതു വാങ്ങുന്നതാരാണു്?

റാവുസാഹിബു് ഐ. എൻ. മേനോൽ: സാധാരണയായിട്ടു കോളേജിൽ കൊണ്ടറിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയി കൊടുക്കുക—അതിനു ക്ലാക്കു് ഒരു റസീറ്റം കൊടുക്കും—അങ്ങിനെയാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: ക്ലാക്കു് അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു റസീറ്റ് കൊടുക്കുന്നതിലും നല്ലതു് കുട്ടികളിൽനിന്നും നേരിട്ടു വാങ്ങിച്ചു അതിനു ഒരു രശീതി കുട്ടികൾക്കു കൊടുത്താൽ പോരെ? എന്റെ അറിവു്, കുട്ടികൾക്കു സൌകര്യം ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും ശമ്പളദിവസം എല്ലാവക്കും വളരെ ജോലിത്തിരക്കാണെന്നാണു്.

റാവുസാഹിബു് ഐ. എൻ. മേനോൻ: ആളുകൾ ധാരാളമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ, പണിനടത്താൻ സൌകര്യവുമാണു്. ഏതായാലും, കുട്ടികൾക്കു ഫീസു് കൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും അസൌകര്യം ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു് തീർക്കാൻ വിരോധമില്ല.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: I put this question, because sometimes Jewish pupils being absent on Saturday, send their fees on Fridays, a day in advance. They do not receive it.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: That inconvenience is remedied because I have issued definite instructions that Saturday should not be the day for collecting fees.

NOON-DAY MEALS FOR CHILDREN

20. Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Womens-Ernakulam)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have prepared any scheme for the distribution of one lakh of rupees donated by Mr. R. M. Alagappa Chettiar for the noon-day meals of poor school children;

(*b*) if so, will Government be pleased to place a copy of the scheme on the Council Table?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: (*a*) A scheme is under preparation only.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Adjournment motions

Mr. President: I have received notice of a motion for adjournment of the business of the House from Mr. A. V. Moothedan. I have had to disallow this motion on the ground that the subject-matter is not a matter of recent occurrence.

I have also received notice of a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House from Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar. I have had to disallow this motion for the reason that the subject-matter mentioned is not a matter of recent occurrence.

Speech by the President

Mr. President: Hon: Members, I am glad to have this opportunity of addressing you and to assure you of my desire and intention to work in collaboration with the Legislature in the service of His Highness for the advancement of the happiness and prosperity of all the subjects of his State. You will not expect me—within a month of my assumption of office—to make any announcement of new departures in policy or administrative practice. I am fortunate in succeeding a Diwan who during his tenure of office earned the support and goodwill of all those charged with the responsibility of administering the affairs of the State, and, for the present, until I have had time and opportunity to study more closely the problems which confront the administration, I feel that I cannot do better than continue to work along the lines which he laid down. Mr. Dixon during the two years he spent here as Diwan determined first to see that the State made its full contribution to war activities of every kind; his second object was to see that all possible steps were taken to ensure the production of as much food as possible within the Sate, his third—and most difficult—task was to secure from outside such additional supplies of food as were necessary to maintain the population in a reasonable state of health: and his fourth task was to ensure as far as possible a distribution of these supplies—both home-grown and imported—to all the inhabitants of the State regardless of their position or influence. His devotion to these aims won universal admiration and regard, and I wish to take this opportunity of adding my tribute to those numerous expressions of appreciation which were paid to him on his departure from the State.

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We watch the progress of the war with admiration and confidence. The growing weight of the air attack on Germany, the continued pressure exerted by the Russians all along their extended battle fronts, the determined nature of the British and American attack in Italy, the increasing success of the Navies in the battle of the Atlantic, the growing strength and number of the attacks upon the Japanese—all bear witness to the ever increasing might of the allies and the weakening of the enemy. The important talkes which have recently taken place between the rulers of the United States, Great Britain, China and Russia prove to the world that these powerful allies are all animated by one spirit—the will to conquer the enemy—and are united in their plans for the attainment of that object. But let no one think that victory is already won: the German can still fight back in Russia and resist stubbornly in Italy, the Japanese are still in possession of nearly all their ill-gotten territorial gain. The allied leaders have told us that it is their policy to deprive Japan of all these conquests, and we must believe that they intend a similar outcome of the war for Germany as well. All our accredited leaders promise us hard and bitter fighting before we can claim victory; let us see to it that we continue to play a worthy part in the struggle right to the end. There is still need for all the help that we can give; let us determine to give it without stint. This State has earned a great reputation for its war effort; let us each do what we can to maintain and enhance that reputation.

Hon: Members will remember that a special drive was undertaken in 1942 to collect the sum necessary to enable the State to pay for a small warship. The full amount required was collected early this year; and I am glad to inform Hon: Members that H.M.I.S. COCHIN is to be launched before the end of this month. His Highness the Maharaja has deputed the 4th Prince to perform this ceremony on his behalf, and the Prince will be leaving shortly to undertake this interesting and historic duty.

Since the Council last met the State has suffered a grievous loss in the death of its late Ruler, to whom the House paid its last tribute yesterday. We pay homage today to a new Ruler whose gracious message I had the privilege of reading yesterday, and our next business today will be to pass a motion congratulating him on his accession.

Of the other domestic affairs of the State I propose to mention only one; but that is I suppose the subject which has caused everyone—official and non-official—more anxiety than any other—the food situation. Thanks to the timely and adequate measures put into force by my predecessor, there has been throughout the State a fair distribution of such supplies of food grain as it has been possible to secure. No one pretends that the present ration is sufficient; but until we receive larger supplies from outside the State it is impossible to increase it. We all recognise that for a rice-eating population the quantity of rice which we are able to supply is inadequate, but it has only just been possible for us to continue the present ration. The situation is still grave, but I have within the last few days received a promise of help from Madras which will I hope see us through the most difficult period which will elapse until the next harvest comes on to the market in the latter part of January. I should like to say a word in appreciation of the spirit in which the public have accepted the difficulties and inconveniences attendant upon rationing—to which I am sure that Hon: Members of this House have contributed not a little.

I do not wish to detain hon: members longer. A lengthy and varied agenda awaits us. May our deliberations be conducted in a spirit of service to the State and may they result in the greater happinees and well-being of its people.

Congratulatory Motion on the accession of His Highness Sree Ravi Varma, Maharaja of Cochin

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I feel highly gratified that I should be enabled to move the following motion.—

"This Council respectfully tenders its humble congratulations to His Highness the Maharaja, Sree Ravi Varma on his assuming the rulership of this ancient State and desires to express its prayerful hope that His Highness will live long and that under his pious and benevolent rule the prosperity of the State and the happiness of its people will progress continuously".

This House extends its hearty congratulations and warm felicitations to His Highness Sree Ravi Varma, on his accession to the ancient gadi of Cochin. The Ruling Family of Cochin has been justly celebrated for its benevolence, piety and regard for the welfare of the people. His Highness possesses these family qualities in rich abundance. His Highness brings with him in the discharge of high duties as a Ruler, ripe experience, profound knowledge and wisdom of years. After a liberal education under erudite scholars, His Highness extended his knowledge by wide reading and extensive travels. Even before His Highness ascended the Musnad His Highness has in various ways shown his sympathy for the poor and the suffering and his solicitude for

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